

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03359 132216Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06
OMB-01 AID-05 SCS-03 /059 W
-----140611Z 060512 /12

R 132100Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 966
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3359

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, CO
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: QUARTERLY REPORT, JANUARY-MARCH 1976

SUMMARY: GOC MINHEALTH HAS FURTHER TIGHTENED CONTROLS ON SALE OF LICIT DRUGS. ACCORDING TO DEA INTELLIGENCE, COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKERS ARE BEGINNING TO PURCHASE COCAINE HCL DIRECTLY IN BOLIVIA AND ARE RESORTING TO USE OF VENEZUELAN AND THIRD COUNTRY PASSPORTS TO FACILITATE TRAVEL. CREATION OF THE NARCOTICS AVIATION SUPPORT UNIT BOGGED DOWN DURING THE PERIOD BECAUSE OF GOC RAISED QUESTIONS CONCERNING SIGNATORIES TO THE HELICOL CONTRACT AND LIABILITY INSURANCE. A NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS HAS BEEN NAMED AS HAS BEEN A NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS, THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN COLOMBIAN JAILS FOR DRUG OFFENSES HAD CONTINUED TO DECLINE, STANDING AT 60 AT THE END OF THE PERIOD.

1. ABUSE. MINISTRY OF HEALTH RESOLUTION DATED JANUARY 17, 1977 STILL FURTHER TIGHTENED REGULATIONS OVER THE LICIT DRUG TRADE TO PREVENT DIVERSION FOR NON-MEDICINAL PURPOSES. THE IMPORTATION OF RAW MATERIALS, THE MANUFACTURING, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS, INCLUDING BARBITURATES, AMPHETAMINES, AND TRANQUILIZERS, ARE PLACED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 03359 132216Z

UNDER DIRECT GOVERNMENT CONTROL. LESS STRINGENT CONTROLS IMPOSED IN JUNE 1976 BROUGHT A SALUTARY DECREASE IN SALES OF DRUGS SUSCEPTIBLE TO ABUSE.

2. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING. NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT.

3. TRAFFICKING TRENDS. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SOME OF

THE COLOMBIAN NETWORKS ARE BEGINNING TO BUY COCAINE HCL DIRECTLY FROM SUPPLIERS IN BOLIVIA, RATHER THAN PURCHASING PASTE OR BASE FOR SUBSEQUENT PROCESSING OUTSIDE BOLIVIA. ALSO COLOMBIAN COURIERS ARE RESORTING TO THE USE OF VENEZUELAN AND THIRD COUNTRY PASSPORTS TO AVOID THE CLOSER SCRUTINY GIVEN TO BEARERS OF COLOMBIAN PASSPORTS AS POSSIBLE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS.

4. ENFORCEMENT. ACTIVITY SLACKED OFF IN THE WAKE OF OPERATION FUNNEL, BUT THERE WERE STILL SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS INCLUDING THE SEIZURE OF TWO COCAINE LABS, ONE RESULTING FROM THE USE OF A BIRD-DOG DEVICE WITHIN AN ETHER DRUM. THE DEVICE WAS SUCCESSFULLY TRACKED BY DAS, FIRST BY AIRPLANE AND THEN BY AUTOMOBILE.

5. TREATMENT, EDUCATION, REHABILITATION. THE JOINT USUS-GOC FILM ON DRUGS, "UN VIAJE," WAS EXTENSIVELY PROGRAMMED DURING THIS PERIOD, WITH AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ PERSONALLY SHOWING IT TO PORT AUTHORITIES IN SANTA MARTA AND BARRANQUILLA. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS BEGAN LAYING PLANS FOR HOLDING EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE AND WITH ITS OWN RESOURCES PREDOMINATELY. HOWEVER, AN INITIAL SEMINAR PLANNED FOR LATE MARCH WAS POSTPONED. WITH SUPPORT FROM USIA WASHINGTON AND S/NM, DRA. MARIA ISABEL DE LINCE, DIRECTOR OF WEEKLY TELEVISION PROGRAM ON DRUGS, TRAVELED TO CARACAS, NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA AND WASHINGTON TO FILM MATERIAL FOR HER PROGRAM.

6. TRAINING.

A. MR. FELIPE SANDOVAL OF US CUSTOMS BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY SPENT A 30-DAY TDY PERIOD STUDYING THE COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS PATROL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 03359 132216Z

DIVISION AND SUBMITTED A REPORT TO THE GOC DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS RECOMMENDING ORGANIZATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL CHANGES.

B. THREE NATIONAL POLICE OFFICIALS ATTENDED DEA'S ADVANCE INTELLIGENCE DRUG ENFORCEMENT SCHOOL IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WHILE THREE OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE SAME ORGANIZATION ATTENDED US CUSTOMS' DETECTOR DOG TRAINING PROGRAM IN FEBRUARY. TWO FORENSIC CHEMISTS FROM THE GOC MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ARE CURRENTLY ATTENDING THE DEA FORENSIC CHEMISTS SCHOOL MARCH 22-APRIL 15. DR. RAUL JANER RUIZ, THE GOC COORDINATOR FOR THE NARCOTICS AVIATION SUPPORT UNIT ATTENDED THE HELICOPTER ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING IN ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 6-10.

C. USAID/C NARCOTICS ADVISOR MEL HOLGUIN CONDUCTED AN ORIENTATION TRAINING COURSE FOR 21 JUDICIAL POLICE AGENTS IN CALI, MARCH 17-19. THE USAID/C NARCOTICS OFFICE COORDINATED A THREE-WEEK TRAINING COURSE BY MOTOROLA REPRESENTATIVE RUBEN RODRIGUES ON USE, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR OF MOTOROLA COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ALREADY DONATED THROUGH THE MISSION NARCOTICS PROGRAM OR NOW IN PIPELINE. THE COURSE WAS ATTENDED BY 19

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIANS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, DAS, AND CUSTOMS.

7. REGIONAL COOPERATION, NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

8. MISSION AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.

A. THE CREATION OF THE NARCOTICS AVIATION SUPPORT UNIT AGREED UPON IN THE US-GOC PROJECT AGREEMENT SIGNED SEPTEMBER 28, 1976, BOGGED DOWN WHEN THE GOC RAISED ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE SIGNATORIES TO THE CONTRACT FOR OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES TO BE SUPPLIED BY A PRIVATE COMPANY (HELICOL) AND LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR THAT COMPANY. AS A RESULT, THE DELIVERY OF THE HELICOPTERS DID NOT TAKE PLACE AS FORESEEN IN THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT. NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING. IN THE MEANTIME, THE US COORDINATOR FOR THE UNIT DID ARRIVE IN COLOMBIA IN FEBRUARY AND HIS COLOMBIAN COUNTERPART, DR. RAUL JANER RUIZ, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY OFFICIALLY NAMED BY THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 03359 132216Z

GOC.

B. A NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS, DR. JAIME EDUARDO RIVAS, WAS APPOINTED IN FEBRUARY. DR. RIVAS IS YOUNG AND ENERGETIC BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF HE CAN VIVIFY THE COUNCIL WHICH SUFFERS FROM VERY SERIOUS, INHERENT ORGANIZATIONAL AND BUREAUCRATIC WEAKNESSES. A NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS, DR. GUILLERMO FRANCO CAMACHO WAS ALSO NAMED. DR. CAMACHO, WHO HOLDS AN MBA FROM THE WHARTON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, IS A POLITICAL APPOINTEE, NEW IN THE CUSTOMS FIELD, AND CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO ADD TO THE PROFESSIONALISM OF THAT SERVICE. ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT CUSTOMS PERSONNEL CHANGE WAS THE NAMING OF COL. EDUARDO GALVIS ACUNA AS CHIEF OF THE UNIFORMED CUSTOMS POLICE (RESGUARDO).

9. ARRESTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN COLOMBIAN JAILS ON DRUG CHARGES CONTINUED TO DECLINE, STANDING AT 60 AT THE END OF THE PERIOD, DOWN 5 FROM THE CLOSING DATE OF THE LAST QUARTERLY REPORT.

DREXLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BOGOTA03359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770129-0266
Format: TEL
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770463/aaaaccog.tel
Line Count: 158
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1d6735a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2825813
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS: QUARTERLY REPORT, JANUARY-MARCH 1976 SUMMARY: GOC MINHEALTH HAS FURTHER TIGHTENED CONTROLS ON SALE OF LICIT DRUGS. ACCORDING TO DEA INTEL LIGENCE, COLOMB
TAGS: SNAR, CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1d6735a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009